

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 08709 211615Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-05 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02
MCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 USSS-00 SCA-01 /118 W
----- 082085 /46

R 211545Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1032
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 4205
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 8709

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE XF
SUBJECT: DECEMBER 21 SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON ASAD
VISIT TO CAIRO

1. MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED ASAD-SADAT TALKS IN CAIRO.
PRESS BANNERED: "PRESIDENTS ASAD AND SADAT COMPLETE
THEIR TALKS THIS MORNING. IMPORTANT POLITICAL STATE-
MENT EXPECTED. EMPHASIS PUT ON RELATIONS OF UNITY
BETWEEN TWO REGIONS IN VARIOUS SPHERES. OUTCOME OF
CAIRO MEETING WILL BE HISTORIC AND IN INTEREST OF ARAB
NATION. FAHMY -- 'IF PEACEFUL EFFORTS FAIL, WAR IS
MEANS TO OUR GOAL*'" MEDIA ACCOUNTS REPORTED THAT CLOSED
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SESSION BETWEEN ASAD AND SADAT PREVIOUS DAY LASTED TWO
HOURS, DURING WHICH TWO DELEGATIONS ALSO MET TOGETHER.
MEDIA REFERRED TO STATEMENT IN WHICH FONMIN FAHMY
CAUTIONED AGAINST FAILURE OF PEACEFUL EFFORTS AIMED AT
SEEKING JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION OF ME PROBLEMS
MEDIA ALSO REPORTED THAT WAR MINISTER GAMASY BRIEFED

ASAD ON MILITARY SITUATION AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO IMPORVE EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN MILITARY COORDINATION.

2. AL-BAATH COLUMNIST NOTED THAT "SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS HAVE COMBINED TO GIVE ILLUSION THAT NEW OPPORTUNITIES EXIST FOR PEACE IN REGION; FOREIGN PRESS DAILY REPEATS MORE NEWS SUPPORTING THIS LIKELIHOOD. HOWEVER, THE ARAB PEOPLE DO NOT LOOK FOREARD TO PEACE AT ANY COST, NOR DO THEY SEEK PEACE THAT CON-SECUTES GAINS OF ENEMY OR IGNORES JUSTICE. NOR DO ARAB PEOPLE WANT PEACE IN WHICH PALESTINAINS NOT PRIMARY WINNERS." ANOTHER COLUMNIST URGED READERS TO "PERSIST IN STRUGGLE TO RECOVER OUR RIGHTS, WHETHER THIS STRUGGLE POLITICAL OR MILITARY. OUR EXPERIENCES HAVE TAUGHT US THAT THE ENEMY DOES NOT AND WILL NOT CONCLUDE A TRUCE."

3. ON LEBANON, PRESS REPORTED THAT IN COMING FEW DAYS LEBANON WILL WITNESS WIDESCALE ACTIVITY IN POLITICAL, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT SPHERES, AND GOVT, WILL REQUEST VOTE OF CONFIDENCE FROM PARLIAMENT. COLLECTION OF HEAVY WEAPONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED SOON UNDER ADF SUPER-VISION. PRESS CITED RELIABLE SOURCES THAT STATE OF EMERGENCY WILL BE DECLARED DEC. 22 THAT WILL GIVE GOL, ESPECIALLY ITS MILITARY ARM, WIDE-RANGING AUTHORITY TO PURSUE SECURITY MATTERS WITHOUT TRADITIONAL PROTECTIVE RIGHTS FOR CITIZENS.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, CHIEFS OF STATE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC08709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760468-0718
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761226/aaaaavsr.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2004 by chengls>; APPROVED <16 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECEMBER 21 SYRIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON ASAD VISIT TO CAIRO
TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, XF, EG, (ASAD, HAFIZ), (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006